



PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Submission of Information Collection for OMB Review; Comment Request; Special Financial Assistance Information

AGENCY: Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

ACTION: Notice of request for extension of OMB approval of information collection.

SUMMARY: The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) extend approval, without change, under the Paperwork Reduction Act, of a collection of information contained in PBGC's regulation on special financial assistance. This notice informs the public of PBGC's request and solicits public comment on the collection of information.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

A copy of the request will be posted on PBGC's web site at <https://www.pbgc.gov/prac/laws-and-regulation/federal-register-notices-open-for-comment>. It may also be obtained without charge by writing to the Disclosure Division of the Office of the General Counsel of PBGC, 1200 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005-4026; or, calling 202-229-4040 during normal business hours (TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service toll-free at 800-877-8339 and ask to be connected to 202-229-4040).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Melissa Rifkin (rifkin.melissa@pbgc.gov), Attorney, Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 1200 K Street NW, Washington DC 20005-4026; 202-229-6563. (TTY and TDD

users may call the Federal relay service toll-free at 800–877–8339 and ask to be connected to 202–229–6563.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4262 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) requires PBGC to provide special financial assistance (SFA) to certain financially troubled multiemployer plans upon application for assistance. To implement section 4262 of ERISA, PBGC added part 4262 to its regulations, “Special Financial Assistance by PBGC.” Part 4262 provides guidance to multiemployer pension plan sponsors on eligibility, determining the amount of SFA, content of an application for SFA, the process of applying, PBGC’s review of applications, restrictions and conditions, and reporting and notice requirements.

To apply for SFA, a plan sponsor must file an application with PBGC and include information about the plan, plan documentation, and actuarial information, as specified in §§ 4262.6 through 4262.9. PBGC needs this information to review a plan’s eligibility for SFA, priority group status (if applicable), and amount of requested SFA. PBGC estimates that an annual average of 60 plan sponsors will file applications for SFA with an average annual hour burden of 600 hours and an average annual cost burden of \$1,800,000.

Under § 4262.16(i), a plan sponsor of a plan that has received SFA must file an Annual Statement of Compliance with the restrictions and conditions under section 4262 of ERISA and part 4262 once every year through 2051. PBGC needs the information in the Annual Statement of Compliance to ensure that a plan is compliant with the imposed restrictions and conditions. PBGC estimates that an annual average of 49 plan sponsors will file Annual Statements of Compliance with an average annual hour burden of 98 hours and an average annual cost burden of \$117,600.

Under § 4262.15(c), a plan sponsor of a plan with benefits that were suspended under sections 305(e)(9) or 4245(a) of ERISA must issue notices of reinstatement to participants and beneficiaries whose benefits were suspended and are being reinstated. Participants and

beneficiaries need the notice of reinstatement to better understand the calculation and timing of their reinstated benefits and, if applicable, make-up payments. PBGC estimates that an average of 11 plans per year will be required to send notices to participants with suspended benefits. PBGC estimates that these notices will impose an average annual hour burden of 22 hours and average annual cost burden of \$22,667.

Finally, under § 4262.16(d), (f), and (h) a plan sponsor must file a request for a determination from PBGC for approval for an exception under certain circumstances for SFA conditions under § 4262.16 relating to reductions in contributions, transfers or mergers, and settlement of withdrawal liability. PBGC needs the information required for a request for determination to determine whether to approve an exception from the specified condition of receiving SFA. PBGC estimates that beginning in 2023, PBGC will receive an average of 2.2 requests per year for determinations. PBGC estimates an average annual hour burden of 2.53 hours and average annual cost burden of \$6,333.

The existing collection of information was approved under OMB control number 1212–0074 (expires January 31, 2022). On September 27, 2021, PBGC published in the Federal Register (at 86 FR 53354) a notice informing the public of its intent to request an extension of this collection of information, as modified. No comments were received. PBGC is requesting that OMB extend approval of the collection for 3 years. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The estimated aggregate average annual hour burden for the information collection in part 4262 is 723 hours for employer and fund office administrative, clerical, and supervisory time. The estimated aggregate average annual cost burden for the information collection request in part 4262 is \$1,946,600, for approximately 4,867 contract hours assuming an average hourly rate of \$400 for work done by outside actuaries and attorneys. The actual hour burden and cost burden per plan will vary depending on plan size and other factors.

Issued in Washington, DC, by:

Hilary Duke,
Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs,
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

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